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12-4-01

XA-9544

PATENT APPLICATION

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Sakae MATSUMOTO et al.

Appln. No.: 09/936,564   Group Art Unit: 3682

Filed: September 14, 2001

For: COUPLING STRUCTURE OF EXTENSIBLE SHAFTS

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
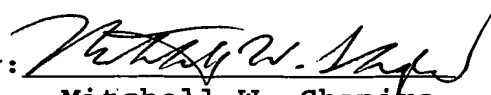Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 14, 2001, and without any assertion as to materiality or prior art effect, the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 are hereby cited.

Applicants' Japanese representative has provided the appended comments regarding the relevance of Documents AL-AN. Comments are also provided for Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 10-45006, a copy of which was provided with the Information Disclosure Statement of September 14, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:sjk

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.   By: _____
1751 Pinnacle Drive   Mitchell W. Shapiro
Suite 500   Reg. No. 31,568
McLean, Virginia 22102-3833
(703) 903-9000
November 19, 2001

Japanese Patent No. 2935950

A resin material is filled in between a coupling portion of an inner shaft and a coupling portion of an outer shaft by being injected. A sliding resin member is filled in between an open end portion of the outer shaft and a fitting end of the inner shaft by being injected from the open end.

The resin members are fixed to the inner shaft.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 64-52975

A fitting portion of an inner shaft has partially small-diametered portions to be easily bent.

Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. 10-45006

This is an improvement of the above-mentioned Japanese Patent No. 2935950.

An inner shaft has a shaft portion and an outer splined portion. A latch portion 5 is formed on either of the shaft portion or the outer splined portion.

A resin member is filled in between portions on an open end portion of the outer shaft and the latch portion of the inner shaft.

The resin member is fixed to the inner shaft.